

CLUTTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR
1950.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1950.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : - 17,170
Area in Acres : - 42,645
Number of inhabited Houses according to Rate Books : - 5030
Rateable Value and Sum Represented by a Penny Rate : - £70577.
£276. 15. Od.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

These remain much about the same as in the past. There are no new Industries and Agriculture, Coal Mining, Stone Quarrying and Printing at Paulton are the chief sources of Employment.

There is extremely little unemployment in the area. In fact nearly all industries find it difficult to obtain sufficient manpower for their needs.

There is definite shortage of labour in both Agriculture and Coal Mining and Domestic Help is in many places almost impossible to obtain.

A great deal of available Female labour is absorbed by Factories and Hospitals.

Housing shortage is being slowly and slightly alleviated by the erection of new council houses. In my opinion it is regrettable that so little private building is possible. There is no doubt that there are a large number of persons ready and willing to build new houses for themselves the moment they are allowed to do so ; and it is only by the erection of many more houses, from whatever source they come, that we can hope to bring relief to the many still existing in rooms and in bad insanitary old cottages.

I cannot see any prospect of disposing of this old property for many years to come and yet there is to my personal knowledge a great deal of such property only fit for demolition.

The supply of water has been of good quality and in most cases adequate in quantity. There have been instances of local shortages and there have been times when our Water Engineer has been much harassed to maintain the existing supply. We have not yet got a reserve of water to make us feel safe against any prolonged drought, but large additional supplies are now within sight and it is to be hoped that they can be brought into circulation in the not too distant future.

There are still a certain number of wells in use but the

tendency now is to instal Company's water wherever possible.

The National Health Scheme of 1948 has now been in operation for 2½ years and it is possible to draw certain conclusions as to its efficacy. Broadley speaking it has been of considerable benefit to the community.

Everybody has been relieved of any consideration of the cost of being ill, and the expenses incurred for Medical Attendance, Medicines, nursing, specialist advice and examinations etc.,

There is a free and excellent Transport Service both of Ambulances and Cars for sitting cases.

Free Dental and Ophthalmic Services have been widely used by many millions of people. It is true to say that large numbers of people now have teeth and glasses, prepared and provided by experts, who would never have been able to afford them before the Act.

The same extended Hospital Services, District Nursing, School Clinics etc., continue to function in much the same way, all are heavily overtaxed.

In the case of the Hospital Services, there is an unavoidable delay in many outpatient departments due entirely to the heavier demands made upon them, but I have yet to hear of a really urgent case which has not received immediate attention somewhere.

The procedure for obtaining appointments and admissions has made heavy calls upon the time of Doctors, but a system is slowly evolving which works well enough.

I regret that there is still great difficulty in obtaining institutional treatment for the aged sick at short notice. It appears that there is insufficient accommodation and in consequence no reserve of empty beds can be kept open for sudden and necessary calls.

Of late years it has become increasingly difficult to get these cases nursed and cared for in their own homes. Owing to the full employment of the community there never seems to be any neighbours available or willing to do this work.

I feel very strongly that something should be done to make available more institutions or more beds for the reception of these cases at short notice.

I should like to pay tribute to the excellent work done by the members of the Domestic Help Service, so very ably administered by Miss Davies. A special vote of thanks should go to her for her untiring efforts in this work. The ability to obtain the service of a competent Domestic Help, even for a few hours 2 or 3 times a week, has lifted a load of worry from the shoulders of mere men when the lady of the house is sick or in hospital.

Medicines, dressings and surgical sundries such as elastic stockings and many other items have been freely supplied under the Act and the Public have undoubtedly benefited greatly for their use.

Of course there are cases of abuse of the service and of people who expect too much from it, but the Minister has from time to time been able to indicate where the benevolence must cease and in my experience the vast majority of people have been most reasonable in their demands and most grateful for what they have been able to obtain.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The conditions of the district are the same as in the past, little or no advance has been made.

A Public Sewerage Scheme is becoming annually more of a necessity.

I am not at all satisfied with the present system of caring for our ever expanding schemes of disposal at the Council's Housing Estates.

The remuneration offered to individual caretakers is insufficient to ensure good service and it is difficult to obtain the services of anybody in most cases. In consequence these plants are too often neglected and become a nuisance and a danger to the public.

The system of employing Contractors to empty the cesspits does not seem to work with sufficient regularity and in my opinion it is necessary for the Council to consider the purchase and use of its own Tanker Pump. The driver could also do what maintenance was needed at the Plants.

This matter merits the immediate serious consideration of the Council.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Shaw for his loyal service and generous help on any occasion that it is needed, and I cannot close my report without again thanking Mr. Barwick for his guidance and help which I never fail to enlist and which is always so freely given.

I append in subsequent pages details and vital statistics in the form set out by the Ministry and already supplied in skeleton form to the County Medical Officer of Health at his request.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD V. BREW.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	124	115	239
Illegitimate	3	2	5
	<u>127</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>244</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 population = 14.21.

Still Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Rate of Still births per 1000 births = 20.49

Deaths from all causes.

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>103</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>202</u>

Death rate per 1000 population = 11.76

The death rate for England and Wales as a whole is 11.6 per 1000.

CAUSES OF DEATHS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (not measles)	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	8	4	12
" " of lung or bronchitis	1	2	3
" " of breast	-	1	1
" " of Uterus	-	1	1
" " Other forms	11	7	18
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system	15	27	42
Coronary Disease, Angina etc.	5	9	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1	3
Heart Disease (other forms)	21	22	43
Other circulatory Diseases	7	4	11
Pneumonia	6	1	7
Bronchitis	8	4	12
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Other defined and Ill Defined Diseases	10	7	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, all forms	1	2	3
Total	<u>103</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>202</u>

Deaths from Cancer = 35 (20 male - 15 female).

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of
childbirth - 0

From other puerperal causes = Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age. = 3. (of which 2 were
under 4 weeks)

Death rate of infants per 1000 live births = 12.3.

Deaths from Measles, all ages = 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough = 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under
2 years) = 0.

Zymotic death rate per 1000 population = 0.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS COMPARED
WITH 1949.

Estimated population is lower by 50.

Births are lower by 51.

Deaths are lower by 8.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Measles	104	
Whooping Cough	56	
Pneumonia	18	(14 males 4 females)
Scarlet Fever	9	{ 4 male, 5 females }
Tuberculosis(Pulmonary)	11	{ 3 male, 8 females }
Acute Encephalitis	1	{ 1 female }
Erysipelas	4	{ 1 male, 3 females }.
Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis	1	{ 1 male }
TOTAL	204	

Tuberculosis.

11 cases were notified of which 8 were females
and 3 males. All 11 cases were Pulmonary cases.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
Male	1	0
Female	1	1
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

VACCINATION (AGAINST SMALL POX) DURING THE
YEAR 1950.

	<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>1-4 yrs.</u>	<u>5-14 yrs.</u>	<u>15 yrs & Over.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Primary Vaccination	13	29	3	3	48
Re-vaccination	-	1	-	16	17
				Total	65

Only 4 Rural Districts out of 16 in Somerset had a lower total.

IMMUNIZATION (AGAINST DIPHTHERIA).

	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 -14 yrs.</u>
Primary	106 59	1 2

Reinforcing, all between 5 and 14 years 14 ± 26.

Total Primary = 168.

Total Reinforcing + 40

Under 5 years old are done by Family Doctor.

The majority of the 5 to 14 years are done at school by County School Medical Officers.

The total number of children in an immunized state under 15 years of age at 31. 12. 50 in the Clutton R.D. C area was 3117. Of sixteen rural districts Clutton was the fourth highest.

WATER SUPPLY DURING 1950.

1 (a) Quality has been satisfactory.

(b) Quantity has not been.

2. Shortages have occurred on the Downside Scheme.

3. Results of samples taken for analysis from piped supplies :-

<u>RAW WATER.</u>				<u>TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY</u>			
<u>BACTERIOLOGICAL.</u>		<u>CHEMICAL.</u>		<u>BACTERIOLOGICAL.</u>		<u>CHEMICAL.</u>	
Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Satis- fact ory.	Unsatis- fact ory.	Satis factory.	Unsatis- fact ory.	Satis fact ory.	Unsatis- fact ory.
-	3	2	-	6	-	2	-

4. There is no Plumbo solvent action in our water.

5. There has been no contamination of supplies.

6a. Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied from public mains:-

- a. Direct to houses
b. By means of Stand Pipes.

DIRECT TO THE HOUSES.		BY MEANS OF STAND PIPES.	
No of dwelling houses.	Population.	No of dwelling houses.	Population
4210	14608	415	1440

(b) All parishes throughout the district have a piped water supply.

Extensions or improvement of supplies during the year.

Mains extended to serve housing schemes at Chilcompton and Clutton.

Water Supply from Wells.

NO OF SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS.			
Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
Chemical.	Bacteriological.	Chemical.	Bacteriological.
-	-	-	2

No of wells closed = 11.

No of houses relying on well supplies = 342.

Extensions or improvements of supplies during year - None.

Future proposals.

Extension of main 1140 lineal yards at Highfields Lane, East Harptree. Estimated cost £2016.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:-

Timsbury, Ubley and Compton Martin.

Extensions of sewers, ew works or improvements during the year :- None.

Future proposals :

Faulton scheme - estimated cost not yet known.

RIVER POLLUTION.

No cases dealt with up to 1st April 1950.

No of conversions to water carriage system during the year = 22.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is removed by Contractor, 3 low loading vehicles are employed. Collection is made weekly.

23 parishes are covered by routine collections.

No scheme is operated for the collection of trade refuse.

No of controlled tips = 2.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No in area - None.

HOUSING.

	Houses erected during year.		Houses in course of erection.		Conversion to flats or dwellings		Temp or ary. Army huts &c.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local authority.	28	-	32	-	-	-	-
Private enterprise	18	-	6	-	4	-	-
Totals	46	-	38	-	4	-	-

Grants made under the Housing Act 1949.

Applications received :- 2

No of houses concerned :- 4

No of schemes approved and submitted to Ministry of Health - None.

Applications disapproved - 1 (withdrawn) 1 deferred.

Houses occupied that have been condemned as totally
unfit = 374.

No of houses found overcrowded = 3.

Houses required :-

(a) To replace those unfit	...	374
(b) To abate overcrowding.	...	50

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end
of the year = 1067.

FOOD.

Milk.

(a) No of registered dairies	...	6
(b) No of retailers in area	...	4
(c) No of supplementary licenses issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside area	-

Ice Cream.

No of premises registered for :-

(a) Manufacture and retail	...	-
(b) Manufacture only	...	1
(c) Retail only	...	33

Slaughter houses.

(a) No in use under Ministry of Food	...	None.
(b) No in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	None.

Premises where food is prepared.

No registered under Section 14 of the Food and
Drugs Act 1938 Nil.

Model Byelaws Series 1. (Ministry of Food.)

Adopted - December 1950.

KNACKERS YARDS.

None.

REPORT UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT.

Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are
enforced by local authority - Number - 33.

28 inspections were made.

2 cases of defects were found and remedied.
One, want of cleanliness and one of insufficient sanitary
conveniences.

There were 19 outworkers all making wearing apparel.

